

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 8 and 11 are amended. In addition, page 5 of the specification is amended to correct an obvious error as may be understood from a reading of the paragraph. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Independent claim 1 is amended for clarity and to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification on page 5, paragraph 3.

I. Election/Restriction

Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to address the Restriction made in the Office Action. In particular, claims 8 and 11 have been rewritten in dependent form to depend from claim 1. With regards to claims 8 and 11, the Examiner's attention is directed to § 821.04 of the MPEP, which encourages Applicants to submit dependent claims directed to a method of making a patentable product and depending from the product claim. The MPEP indicates that such method claims are not improper and should be rejoined and allowed when the independent product claim is allowed.

II. The Claims are Patentable over the Applied References

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicant Admitted Prior Art (i.e. Fig. 1)" in view of Ruby et al. (EP 1071126 A2). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Applicant Admitted Prior Art in view of Ruby does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action acknowledges that the Applicant Admitted Prior Art does not disclose a cover comprising at least one groove passing through the cover at the peripheral zone and a sealing material deposited at the bottom of a groove, as recited in independent claim 1. The Office

Action, however, asserts that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide the cover disclosed by the Applicant Admitted Prior Art with a cover including at least one groove passing through the cover at the peripheral zone and a sealing material deposited at the bottom of a groove, in view of Ruby to provide a package that assures a high conductivity and a hermetically sealed connection into the wafer level package. Applicant respectfully submits that Ruby does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 groove forming a closed loop on the cover rear face. The conductive vias (26, 28) of Ruby relied upon in the Office Action are cylindrical holes, as shown in Fig. 1B. Moreover, the holes shown in Fig. 1B of Ruby do not delineate a central zone and a peripheral zone in the cover and do not form a groove forming a closed loop.

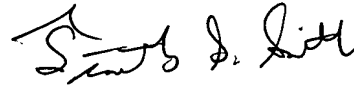
Modifying the Applicant Admitted Prior Art with Ruby would not result in the combination of features recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the Applicant Admitted Prior Art and Ruby does not disclose or suggest at least one groove passing through the cover and delineating in the cover a peripheral zone and a central zone completely covering the cavity, the groove forming a closed loop at least on the rear face of the cover.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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